

Application/Control Number: 10/049,609

Page 2

Art Unit: 3700

CLMTPO

2/12/02

TVH

1. A designated master communications device for communicating with other communications devices via a wireless connection in accordance with a wireless communications protocol, the protocol being adapted to cause the communications device initiating the wireless connection to act as the master, the communications device accepting the connection acting as a slave, the designated master communications device being adapted to be the master and comprising:

a transceiver for transmitting and receiving signals; and,

a processor coupled to the transceiver, the processor being adapted to:

detect the presence of another communications device;

establish a wireless connection with the other communications device such that the designated master communications device acts as the master; and,

cause any subsequent communication to be performed via the established wireless connection.

2. A designated master communications device according to claim 1, wherein the processor is adapted to detect the presence of the other communications device by detecting a polling signal generated by the other communications device, the polling signal being generated in accordance with the protocol to initiate a wireless connection.

Art Unit: 3700

3. A designated master communications device according to claim 2, wherein the processor is adapted to establish a wireless connection with the other communications device by:

generating a response to the polling signal thereby accepting the wireless connection from the other communications device such that the designated master communications device acts as a slave;

breaking the wireless connection; and,

establishing a new wireless connection such that the designated master communications device acts as the master.

4. A designated master communications device according to claim 3, wherein the designated master communications device is further connected to a number of slave communications devices via a number of wireless connections, and wherein the processor is further adapted to establish the wireless connection with the other communications device using a scatternet such that the wireless connection with the slave communications devices form a first piconet, and the wireless connection with the other communications device forms a second piconet.

5. A designated master communications device according to claim 4, wherein the processor is further adapted to establish the new wireless connection with the other communications device such that the new wireless connection forms part of the first piconet.

6. A designated master communications device according to claim 3, wherein the designated master communications device is further connected to a number of slave communications devices via a number of wireless connections, and wherein the processor is further adapted to establish the wireless connection with the other communications device by:

generating a standby signal causing the number of slave communications devices to enter a standby mode before accepting the wireless connection from the other communications device; and,
generating a wake-up signal causing the number of slave communications devices to be revived from the standby mode once the new wireless connection has been established.

7. A designated master communications device according to claim 2, wherein the processor is adapted to establish a wireless connection with the other communications device by:

 failing to generate a response to the polling signal, thereby rejecting the wireless connection from the other communications device; and, establishing a new wireless connection such that the designated master communications device acts as the master.

8. A designated master communications device according to claim 1, wherein the processor is adapted to establish a new wireless connection by generating a polling signal, the polling signal being transmitted to the other communications device via the transceiver.

9. A designated master communications device according to claim 1, wherein the designated master communications device is a call handling device for connecting the other communications devices to a communications network, the call handling device including an output for connecting the call handling device to the communications network.

10. A designated master communications device according to claim 1, wherein the wireless communications protocol is the bluetooth protocol.

11. A communication device according to claim 1, wherein the other communications device includes any one of telephones, computing devices, printers, PDAs, computer peripherals, and headsets.

12. A method of enforcing a master and slave relationship between two communications devices communicating via a wireless connection in accordance with a wireless communications protocol, the protocol being adapted to cause the communications device initiating the wireless connection to act as the master, the method comprising:

**designating one of the communications devices to be the master;
causing the designated master communications device to detect the presence of another communications device;
causing the designated master communications device to establish a wireless connection with the other communications device; and,
causing any subsequent communication to be performed via the established wireless connection.**

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the method of detecting the presence of the other communications device comprises detecting a polling signal generated by

the other communications device, the polling signal being generated in accordance with the protocol to initiate a wireless connection.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein step (c) comprises the steps of:
causing the designated master communications device to generate a response to the polling signal thereby accepting the wireless connection from the other communications device such that the designated master communications device acts as a slave communications device;
causing the designated master communications device to break the wireless connection; and,
causing the designated master communications device to establish a new wireless connection such that the designated master communications device acts as the master.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the designated master communications device is further connected to a number of slave communications devices, wherein step (c) further comprises:

causing the designated master communications device to place the number of slave communications devices in a standby mode before accepting the wireless connection from the other communications device; and,
reviving the number of slave communications devices from the standby mode once the new wireless connection has been established.

Art Unit: 3700

16. A method according to claim 13, wherein step (c) comprises the steps of:
causing the designated master communications device to fail to generate a response to the polling signal thereby rejecting the wireless connection from the other communications device; and,
causing the designated master communications device to establish a new wireless connection such that the designated master communications device acts as the master.
17. A method according to claim 12, wherein the communications protocol is the Bluetooth protocol.